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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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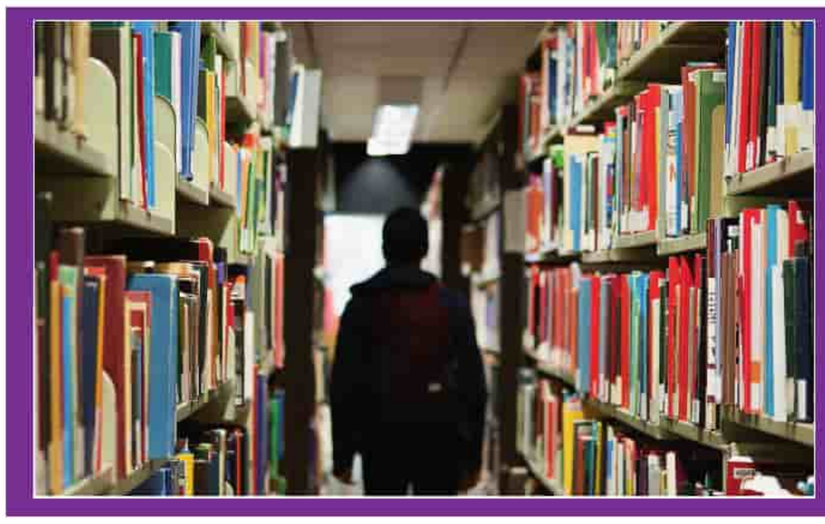
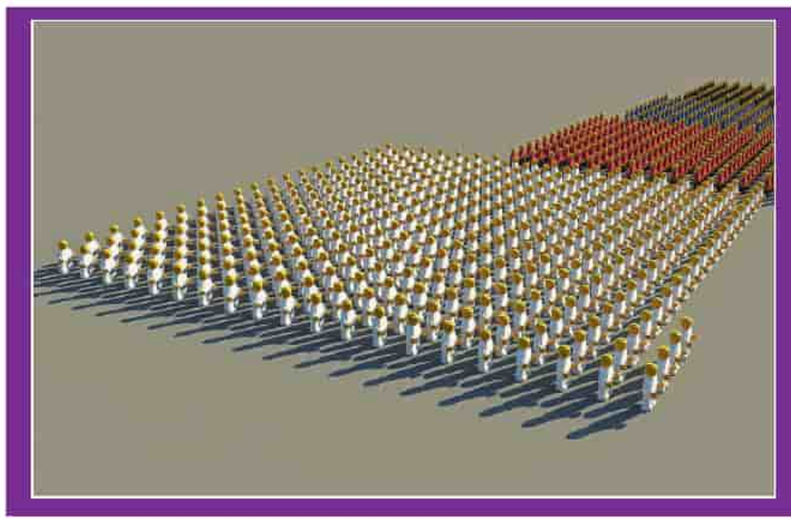


COURSE OF ACTION

As admission season for undergraduate courses picks up momentum across the state, find out which courses are hot picks

PAGE 2



WAITING FOR POLLS

Municipal elections in city are likely after August 15; panel to report in five months on forming three to five corporations

PAGE 11

Women's helpline receives 1.67 lakh calls between April 2024-25 — just 25,319 of these genuine calls — physical violence cases top distress calls, dowry harassment follows

WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?

181 helpline forwarded 1,519 calls to police

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Launched in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya gangrape case in 2012, the 181 Women Helpline continues to serve as a vital support system for women in distress. Operated by the Department of Women and Child Development, this toll-free helpline functions 24/7, offering immediate assistance, emotional support, and links to essential services.

Over 25,000 women assisted in one year

From April 2024 to April 2025, the helpline received a total of 1.67 lakh (1,67,000) calls. Out of these, 1.42 lakh calls were found to be irrelevant, while 25,319 were genuine and led to active intervention. The helpline works closely with other emergency networks to ensure comprehensive support.

A total of 1,519 calls were forwarded to the 112 police emergency service, and 1,457 calls were redirected to the 1098 Child Helpline.

Demonstrating inter-agency collaboration, 22 calls were received from the 1098 helpline, while four were routed from 112. Additionally, 367 cases requiring in-depth support were forwarded to One Stop Centres (OSC) for counseling and care.

> **"Women in distress who require emotional or psychological support are referred to the One-Stop Centres for appropriate counseling**
>
> — Women and Child Development department official

Physical abuse tops the list of reported issues

The most frequent issue reported was physical violence, accounting for 54 cases. Dowry harassment followed closely with 43 calls, while verbal abuse and threats made up 40 cases. Online disputes emerged as a significant concern with 30 calls, and 29 women reported

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

Listen up, B'luru does meme it

Citizens make use of satire and memes to hold officials accountable, but blur the line between genuine and hoax in the process

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An outcry has emerged from the streets of Byappanahalli, but not in the form of traditional complaints. Instead, citizens have turned to memes, satire, and direct social media tagging to nudge the city police into action blurring the lines between humour and urgent appeals for justice.

It all began on April 23 at 9.42 pm, when a user tagged @blrcitypolice on X (formerly Twitter) with a post that read "Please help me, my friend was beaten badly in the streets and the attacker has escaped. I have his photo, please help."

The next day, on April 24, the official handle of the Bengaluru City Police responded with a standard request: "Please share the exact location and your contact details." The complainant promptly followed up "Incident happened at Baiyappanahalli, within the police station limits. This is the person who beat up an innocent man and has now fled to Kolkata. He's a wing commander in LAF and resides in CV Raman Nagar. A complaint has been lodged, but no action has been taken."

What happened next was the digital equivalent of a town square gathering, except with memes, emojis, and snark. While some users rallied in support,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Toon fest

Sonic, the star of Sonic the Hedgehog, and the official mascot of the Japanese video game company Sega, will be zooming in for a thrilling on-stage performance, followed by a meet-and-greet. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Infantry Road; When: April 26 and April 27, 2 pm and 8 pm**

02 Shopping bliss

Sarjapur SOCIAL is transforming into a vibrant bazaar, offering a kaleidoscope of fashion, art, and unique experiences—the ultimate destination to shop, sip, and soak up the eclectic energy. **Where: SOCIAL, Sarjapur; When: April 26, 2 pm to 11 pm**

03 Literary realm

Tulika Books is organising the launch of the book 'Go Go Flamingo!', which paints a telling picture of the violence unthinking humans inflict on the natural world through hazardous waste. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 26, 2.30 pm**

04 Self discovery

A wellness workshop 'Let's Talk Shame', is being oragnised with Dr Mathai Fenn, Dr Nimesh George, and Dr Gokul Ratakonda, all practicing psychotherapists and psychologists, aiming to help individuals explore shame in self and relationships, understand its origins, and develop strategies to address it. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 27, 11 am**

05 Musical evening

KishanBaalaji Collective is performing a tribute to Pink Floyd, bringing to life iconic hits and blending classic rock nostalgia with a unique artistic touch. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: April 26, 7 pm**

BCA courses witness high demand amongst students

More students increasingly see BCA, along with other courses like CA and CS, as professional courses with promising career prospects

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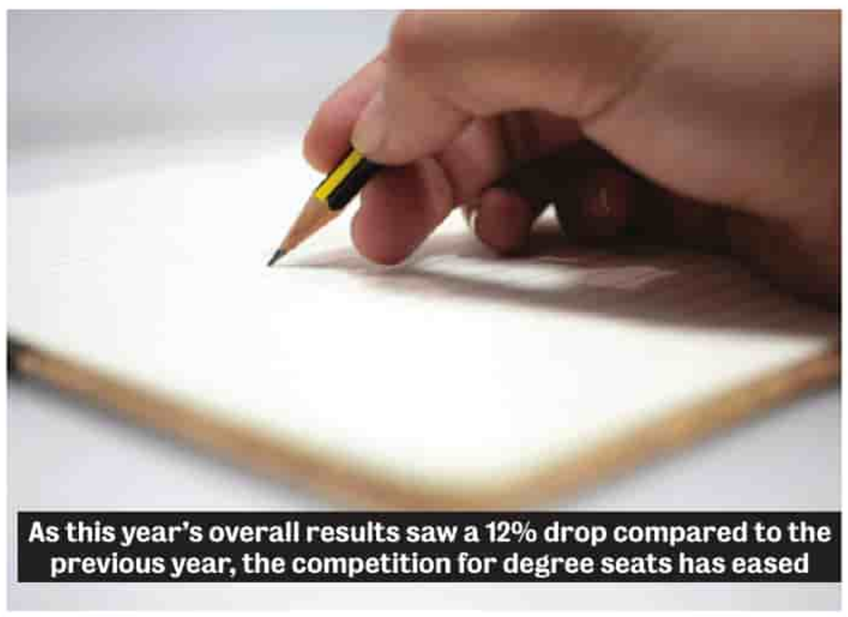

As this year's overall results saw a 12% drop compared to the previous year, the competition for degree seats has eased

With the announcement of the second PUC results, the admission season for undergraduate courses has picked up momentum across the state. In recent years, students have shown an increasing preference for Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) and commerce courses.

This year, 6.37 lakh students appeared for the second PUC exams in Karnataka, of which 4.08 lakh students passed, resulting in an overall pass percentage of 66.16%. In the Arts stream, 81,553 students cleared the exams, though the number of students opting for Bachelor of Arts (BA) courses has declined significantly. In Commerce, 1.55 lakh students passed, with most expressing interest in Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) courses. The science stream recorded the highest number of pass-outs with 2.31 lakh students, over 50% of whom are keen on pursuing engineering or medical courses. Students typically consider Bachelor of Science (BSc) courses only if they do not secure admission in the other professional streams. Courses such as Chartered Accountancy (CA) and Company Secretary (CS) are also gaining popularity amongst students.

Direct applications in progress

While the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) is the official platform for admissions, several colleges have opened direct application processes without waiting for the UUCMS portal. Although the system mandates online admissions, students have not yet been allowed to apply via UUCMS for the 2025–26 academic year. To avoid delays, colleges have decided to proceed with offline admissions and later upload the data to UUCMS.

Discussion around fee hike

Due to declining interest in general degree courses (excluding professional programs), many college managements are deliberating a fee hike. Degree colleges under Bangalore City University are reportedly considering a 5% fee increase, though a final decision is yet to be made. As this year's overall results saw a 12% drop compared to the previous year, the competition for degree seats has eased. Consequently, most colleges are retaining last year's cut-off marks as the benchmark for seat allotment.

Surging demand for BCA

BCA remains the most sought-after course, with colleges witnessing consistently high demand. At Government First Grade College, Vijayanagar, of the 2,000 available seats, 1,400 to 1,500 are filled annually, with BCA leading preferences, followed by Commerce, while BSc and BA attract fewer takers. MLA College, Malleswaram, which has 500 BCA seats this year, expects to fill around 400, having admitted students with even 65% marks last year based on merit. VET First Grade College, JP Nagar, has also reported a steady rise in interest for BCA, now seen by students as a professional course with promising career prospects.

Perfect score after revaluation

Deeksha, a student from Shivamogga district, has scored a perfect 600 out of 600 after revaluation, securing the top position in the state. Despite initially ranking first in the Science stream in the state, she had faced a setback in Chemistry, where she was awarded one mark less than expected. Following her request for revaluation, Deeksha received full marks, achieving a perfect score in Chemistry and thus clinching the first position in the state. Previously, she had been awarded 99 marks out of 100 in Chemistry, but after the revaluation, her score was corrected to 100. — **BMB**

Physiotherapy admissions to be under NEET

Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, announced on Thursday that admissions to physiotherapy courses will be regulated by National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), aligning with the national push for standardised medical education. The course duration has also been extended to five years to facilitate competence-based learning and enhanced clinical exposure. At the inauguration of Karnataka Physiocon-25, an international physiotherapy conference at Bangalore Palace Grounds, Dr Patil expressed support for including physiotherapy admissions under NEET, emphasising that it will raise academic quality. He also outlined the state's plans to introduce more physiotherapy courses in govt. colleges. — **BMB**

When in distress, dial 181

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

abuse or violence in public spaces or workplaces.

Diverse range of complaints

Beyond the most reported issues, the helpline addressed a broad spectrum of distress calls. Legal disputes and sexual violence each accounted for 16 calls, while 11 cases involved sexual harassment. Emotional and mental abuse, along with denial of shelter, were each cited in six calls. Family-related disputes, missing persons, and workplace issues had five cases each. Rape and runaway cases were recorded in four calls each, followed by two cases each of health issues and financial abuse. Isolated incidents such as human trafficking, kidnapping, substance abuse, property conflicts, displacement, and even honour killings were also reported, each with one case.

One-stop centres for support

Of the assisted calls, 367 were forwarded to One Stop Centres. Officials explained that OSCs provide comprehensive counseling, addressing concerns ranging from domestic disputes to mental health.

"Women in distress who require emotional or psychological support are referred to the OSCs for appropriate counseling," a department official told BM.

Category	Calls
Physical violence	54
Online dispute	30
Public/Workplace Violence/Abuse	29
Dowry harassment	43
Threaten/Verbal abuse	40
"Family disputes with spouse"	5
Sexual harassment	11
Legal dispute	16
Sexual violence	16
Denying shelter	6
Missing	5
Emotional/Mental violence	6
Runaway	4
Rape	4
Kidnapping/Abducting	1
Work place issues	5
Honor killing	1
Human trafficking	1
Health issues	1
Financial violence	2
Drug/Alcoholism	1
Property related dispute	1

Police take social media posts with pinch of salt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

demanding swift action, others mocked the situation. Comments poured in, "Please help his friend", while few others wrote comments with a crying-laugh emoji.

Another quipped, "I hadn't expected this." And yet another, more annoyed than amused, said, "Please take strict action against this Karan for unnecessarily wasting police time."

But the noise wasn't all sarcasm. A handful of voices cut through with concern. One user asked earnestly, "He's asking a valid question. A complaint has been lodged—has any action been taken?" But it also raises questions on how do authorities distinguish between genuine distress and digital drama?

Bengaluru police Commissioner B Dayananda also addressed the issue. "We have noticed the post, however we have to verify what he has posted and find the authenticity of it. As mentioned earlier, we are taking action on all complaints. When a post appears about someone needing help or reporting a road rage incident, our first step is to identify and locate the victim, then conduct an inquiry before taking appropriate action."

This digital tug-of-war highlights a growing trend where citizens turn to social media not just to rant or joke, but to hold authorities accountable. Baiyappanahalli police have registered an FIR against Wing commander Shiladitya Bose, but have yet to issue an official statement on whether any action has been taken against him.

Three held for serial break-ins

A house burglary reported in Yelahanka Suburban Police limits earlier in March has led to the arrest of three individuals involved in multiple burglaries across the city. A total of 213 grams of stolen gold jewellery worth ₹18.10 lakh and a car used in the crime have been recovered.

The case was registered following a complaint by Piramadhar, a resident of Ramagondanahalli Main Road, who reported a burglary at his residence on March 13. The theft occurred the previous night, when miscreants broke open the front door and escaped with 45 grams of gold jewellery and ₹6 lakh in cash.

Following an investigation, two suspects were apprehended on March 24 near Durgamma Temple in Hagaribommanahalli. Interrogation revealed a third accomplice, who was later arrested.

The trio had travelled to Bengaluru on March 12 in an Etios car. One of them identified the locked house and planned the burglary, which they later confessed to committing. They also admitted to two more house thefts. The accused revealed they had pawned the stolen jewellery in Gangavathi and Hagaribommanahalli.

Wheelie stunt duo fined ₹21K

In a special operation conducted by the Chamarajpet Traffic Police under the Bengaluru City Traffic West Division, two motorists were caught performing dangerous wheelies on motor scooters. The operation was aimed at curbing reckless stunts on city roads, which pose a serious threat to public safety.

The two offenders were booked under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with multiple provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, including Sections 128, 184, 189, 3(1) 2/2, 181, 5(1) 3/2, 180, and 2.2.2. The violators were produced before the 2nd JMFC Traffic Court, where they were fined ₹11,000 and ₹10,000 respectively, totalling ₹21,000. To ensure the accused do not repeat such acts, a Preventive Action Register (PAR) case has also been filed. Officials stated that such special drives will continue in the coming days as part of a broader crackdown on traffic violations and stunt biking.

Woman kills self

A 35-year-old woman, Ammajan, died by suicide at her condiments shop in Renuka Nagar, Nelamangala, following a confrontation with her lover's wife.

According to police, Ammajan, a resident of Renuka Nagar, had separated from her husband, Ibrat Ali, about a year and a half ago. The couple had been married for 18 years and had two daughters. After the separation, Ammajan was allegedly involved in an illicit relationship with a man named Roshan.

The situation escalated when Roshan's wife learned of the affair and confronted Ammajan at her shop, creating a scene in front of onlookers. Distressed by the incident, Ammajan took her life inside the shop.

Police are also on the lookout for Roshan.

Commercial tax officers in bribe net

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Commercial tax inspectors in Bengaluru have been found fixing a monthly rate of bribe from companies based in other states that send consignments into the city illegally.

On Thursday, officials from the Bengaluru district Lokayukta trapped a Commercial Tax Inspector, Nijanandamurthy, and his associate, Manoj M, who were caught red-handed accepting a ₹20 lakh bribe from a Delhi-based pan masala company in exchange for official favour.

The bribe was reportedly demanded as part of an ongoing arrangement where the inspector and his associate facilitated the illegal entry of goods into the city. The accused had established a nexus with the pan masala company, which involved a fixed monthly bribe payment in return for allowing the consignment to bypass legal scrutiny.

The Lokayukta's investigation revealed that this corrupt practice was not only rampant but also caused significant financial losses to the state's exchequer.

Based on intelligence gathered, a case was registered against the accused on Wednesday, leading to the trap set on Thursday. Following the arrest of Manoj M, further raids were conducted at Nijanandamurthy's residence, where more evidence of the corruption was uncovered.

A senior police official from the Lokayukta stated that the act of collecting bribes from out-of-state companies could not have been carried out single-handedly.

There is a suspicion that a group of officers of similar rank may have been involved in the incident. As a result, investigations are being conducted from both angles, examining the role of the officials involved as well as probing the companies' participation in the matter.

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Banashankari skywalk project finally takes off

BMRCL floats tender for ₹50–55 crore skywalk to ease last-mile connectivity, improve safety, and enhance commuter experience at busy Banashankari junction

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Urban infrastructure projects like pedestrian skywalks are gaining momentum as cities aim to improve commuter safety and last-mile connectivity

After years of delay, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has finally initiated the process to construct a pedestrian skywalk connecting Banashankari Metro Station and the TTMC bus terminal. A tender has been floated, marking a key step toward enhancing last-mile connectivity at this busy South Bengaluru junction.

Back in 2022, BMRCL had announced plans to construct a skywalk connecting the Banashankari Temple, the BMTC terminal, and the metro station. Now, the project is finally in motion, with a contractor to be selected through the tendering process. The chosen firm will be responsible for completing the construction within 15 months, along with ongoing maintenance. As part of the contract, the firm must also manage the relocation of electric lines and the translocation of trees.

> **"The proposed skywalk will not just connect key locations but also enhance the pedestrian experience with greenery, resting areas, and vendor spaces** – BMRCL official

Sources said that the Banashankari Metro Station on the Green Line has been operational since June 2017 and remains one of the most crowded stations due to its strategic location. The approximately 700-meter distance between the metro and the BMTC terminal has made crossing the junction a challenge for daily commuters. "As one of South Bengaluru's busiest junctions, the area sees thousands of commuters daily, especially on temple days like Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The presence of the famous Banashankari temple adds to the footfall", said a BMRCL official.

The long-pending skywalk project gained momentum after Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya and then Revenue Minister R Ashoka visited the site in 2019 and directed officials to initiate the plan. However, the project faced repeated delays until 2022, when BMRCL and BBMP jointly revived it.

A BMRCL official added, "The proposed skywalk, estimated to cost ₹50–55 crore, will feature a circular design with multiple loops connecting key locations — the metro station, bus terminal, and temple. Unlike conventional skywalks, this one will include resting areas, greenery, and designated spaces for street vendors, aiming to provide a holistic urban experience for pedestrians."

A cool gesture of kindness this summer

Group of senior citizens along with apartment association set up water cooler for public use

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Here is a heartwarming example of empathy and humanity. While the gesture may seem small, it provides a much-needed facility during the scorching summer months—especially for delivery personnel, taxi drivers, security guards, and other service providers. A group of senior citizens, in collaboration with the Klassik Landmark Apartment Owners Association, have installed a water cooler for public use. These senior citizens are members of the KL Senior Citizen Sewa Samiti. It is truly commendable that they personally funded the installation, reflecting their thoughtfulness and commitment to community welfare.

"We are happy to donate the water cooler, as many people—especially service providers—need access to drinking water during the summer," said Prabhat Shrivastava of the KL Senior Citizen Sewa Samiti. "We thank the Klassik Landmark Apartment Owners Association for providing the space and taking up the responsibility of maintaining it. Our efforts don't stop here—we've also visited old age homes and orphanages to extend our helping hand."

Appreciating the KL Senior Citizen Sewa Samiti for donating the water cooler, Rohan Mahajan, Secretary of the Klassik Landmark Apartment Owners Association, said he was delighted when the group offered to provide this thoughtful facility for service providers. "We provided logistical support by constructing a dedicated shelter for the water cooler, complete with electrical connections and an RO water supply to ensure access to clean drinking water," he said.

He said the installation spot was strategically chosen to ensure easy access for delivery personnel, taxi drivers, security guards, gardeners, and other service staff. "The response from both residents and beneficiaries has been overwhelmingly positive," he added. "Residents appreciate this gesture of goodwill toward service providers, while the workers themselves have expressed sincere gratitude for having access to clean, cold drinking water—especially during the harsh summer months." He also noted that the initiative could inspire other residential communities to take up similar welfare projects.

Members of the KL Senior Citizen Sewa Samiti and Klassik Landmark Apartment Owners Association at the inauguration of a public water cooler installed for service personnel

Three SDPI activists nabbed for murder

In a shocking development, Govindapura police have arrested three Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) activists for the brutal murder of Irfan Khan, an accused in the 2020 DJ Halli-KG Halli riots case. The arrested men—Mohammad Owais, Abdul Aleem, and Mohammad Haneef—allegedly chased Irfan near HBR Layout on April 22 and beat him to death with a long stick. Police investigations revealed a personal angle: Irfan married Abbas's wife after his release from jail, angering Abbas, who remains in prison. Ignoring warnings, Irfan continued the relationship. The murder is believed to have been orchestrated by Abbas from jail. The accused were arrested in Mysuru and being interrogated. — BMB

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Road risk

Jayanagar

The corner near a hospital is obstructed by mud bags, cement blocks, and two-wheelers parked haphazardly. This narrow junction presents a significant risk, particularly for senior citizens. Despite multiple complaints, the traffic police have remained unresponsive.

Pedestrian struggle

South End Circle

There is no pedestrian break in the median between South End Circle and Kanakapura Road. Elderly people, particularly near a bank, face difficulties crossing, especially during rains when the median becomes slushy and hazardous.

Wasted energy

Malleshpalya

Street lights on Seventh Main Road in Malleshpalya have been burning continuously for the past two days. Despite complaints, no corrective action has been taken.

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Metro expansion to fuel real estate in Challaghatta

The extension of the Namma Metro Purple Line to Challaghatta on Mysore Road has brought a significant boost to the real estate market in the area. Realtors and buyers alike are excited about the upcoming transformation, as improved connectivity is expected to drive both residential and commercial development in the region.

According to Arvind Shetty, a real estate expert, the metro extension to Challaghatta is a game-changer.

"Areas along Mysore Road, especially near Challaghatta, are seeing increased interest from both investors and homebuyers. The metro connectivity will make commuting to key areas of Bengaluru like MG Road and Whitefield much quicker and more convenient. This will, without a doubt, raise property values in the region," he said.

Buyers are also expressing optimism about the potential for long-term growth. "I have been looking to buy a property along Mysore Road, and with the metro extension, I see this as the perfect opportunity," said Ramesh Kumar, a prospective homebuyer.

He said that the prices are still reasonable compared to other parts of Bengaluru, and with the metro link, the area is bound to become more popular. "I'm confident that this is a great investment for the future. In terms of pricing, current property rates in the Challaghatta area range between Rs 5,500 and Rs 7,500 per square foot for land and Rs 6,500 to Rs 9,000 per square foot for apartments. Realtors predict that with the completion of the metro line, property prices could see an increase of up to 10-15% in the next few months, as the area becomes more accessible and appealing to a larger population," he said.

As the metro extension nears completion, Challaghatta and surrounding areas on Mysore Road are set to experience a major real estate boom, making it a hot spot for both investors and homebuyers looking for high potential returns.

Prakash VL

Realtors pin hopes on metro extension to Devanahalli

Realtors and buyers alike are optimistic about the future of Devanahalli, with the upcoming metro network extension seen as a game-changer for the region. Rajesh Kumar, a real estate professional, said that the proposed extension of the metro will drastically improve connectivity, making Devanahalli more accessible and attractive to homebuyers and investors.

"We expect a significant rise in property demand and values along the metro corridor as more people look to invest in this developing area. The metro's reach will further boost Devanahalli's appeal, especially as it's already benefiting from the proximity to Kempegowda International Airport and other key infrastructure projects," he said.

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Buyers are equally enthusiastic about the prospects. Priya, a prospective homebuyer, said that the metro extension makes commuting to central Bengaluru far more convenient, which is a huge draw. "Right now, the prices are still affordable compared to other parts of the city, and I'm seriously considering purchasing a 2 BHK here as I believe prices will only rise in the near future. Devanahalli is becoming a prime location for both residential and commercial properties, and with the metro coming in, we expect this area to grow rapidly in the next few years," she expressed.

BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

TUG-OF-FRUIT TALE Our reader shares a lively moment at Sarakki Lake, where a Parakeet hurriedly devours the last of the jungle jaleebi fruits, only to find itself in a playful race with a Squirrel eyeing the same treat. "Nature's little tug-of-war over a sweet prize," they share, reliving the charming tussle between feather and fur.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Archaeologists in coastal Peru have discovered the 5,000-year-old remains of a woman who may have belonged to the upper echelons of the ancient Caral civilisation, a find they say points to the importance of women in the city some five millennia earlier. The remains were unearthed at Aspero, a site within the Caral complex, located about 180 km up the Pacific coast from Lima. Caral is considered the oldest city in the Americas and dates back to around 3000 B.C., thriving in parallel with ancient Egyptian, Chinese, and Sumerian civilisations though it developed in complete isolation. The burial site was previously used as a municipal dump. Archaeologist David Palomino said the woman, believed to be between 20 and 35 years old, was likely of high status based on how her body was wrapped and preserved, with intact skin, hair, and nails. She was buried with blue and brown feathers, possibly from Amazonian birds like macaws, as well as baskets, vases, gourds, and a toucan's beak. Palomino said the discovery highlights the significant and complementary roles of women in the Caral civilisation.

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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No autism is NOT an epidemic and vaccines ARE safe

In just two months as the US health secretary, Robert F Kennedy Jr. has made sweeping changes to the Department of Health and Human Services and its priorities.

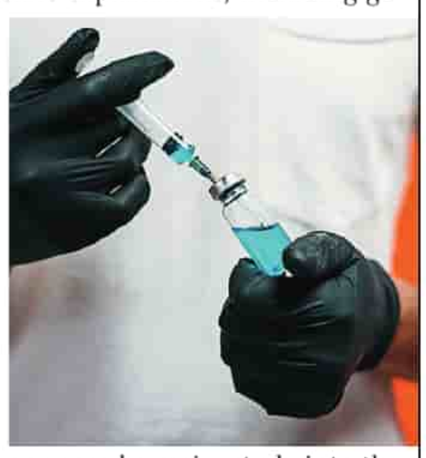
He's dismissed 10,000 public health workers, met with state governors who want to restrict unhealthy foods in taxpayer-funded programs and delivered an inconsistent message on vaccines as measles outbreaks across the country have sickened hundreds. Last week, he promised to find some of the causes of rising U.S. autism rates in under six months' time.

Kennedy's followers, a contingent of health-conscious moms, Republicans loyal to President Donald Trump and others have celebrated his "Make America Healthy Again" initiatives. But scientists and public health experts have expressed dismay over some of Kennedy's statements about Americans' diets, vaccines, measles and autism. Here's a look at some of those claims Kennedy has made, with additional context and facts.

Autism: KENNEDY, at a news conference Wednesday: Studies show that autism rates in the U.S. were "1 in 10,000 when I was a kid" compared to a recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that found it to be 1 in 31. He says that is evidence of an autism epidemic in the U.S. and that, "we know it's an environmental exposure. It has to be." THE FACTS: It's true that in the 20th century, only 1 in 10,000 children were diagnosed with autism; the diagnosis was rare and given only to kids with severe problems communicating or socialising and those with unusual, repetitive behaviours. But the term became shorthand for a group of milder, related conditions known as autism spectrum disorders," and the number of kids labelled as having some form of autism began to balloon.

The term "epidemic" is widely used to describe surges in different health problems like autism, obesity and gun violence, to name a few. But strictly speaking, "epidemic" is defined as a fast-spreading outbreak of disease, and there's not good evidence that autism meets that definition. Health officials have largely attributed growing autism numbers to better recognition of cases, through wide screening and better diagnosis. Last week, the CDC said the diagnosis rate is up to 1 in 31 children.

There are no blood or biologic tests for autism; it is diagnosed by making judgments about a child's behaviour. Research has looked at a variety of other possible explanations, including genetics, the age of the father, the weight of the mother and chemicals in the environment. Prior to his rise to health secretary, Kennedy joined anti-vaccine advocates in claiming childhood vaccines are responsible for autism, but studies by the CDC and others have ruled that out. A fraudulent single study that claimed a link between the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine was later retracted by the journal that published it. Kennedy recently announced a major study into the cause of autism and told an April 10 Cabinet meeting: "By September we will know what has caused the autism epidemic and we'll be able to eliminate those exposures." But last week, he softened that to having "some of the answers by September."



Vaccines: KENNEDY, in an interview with Sean Hannity that aired on Fox News on March 11: "There are adverse events from the vaccine. It does cause deaths every year. It causes it causes all the illnesses that measles itself causes, encephalitis and blindness, et cetera. And so people ought to be able to make that choice for themselves." THE FACTS: The measles vaccine is safe and its risks are lower than the risks of complications from measles. There have been no documented deaths from the MMR vaccine in healthy, non-immunocompromised people, according to the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Most people who get the MMR vaccine have no serious problems from it, the CDC says. The most common side effects are mild: a sore arm, fever, mild rash and temporary joint pain or stiffness in teenage or adult women who don't already have rubella immunity. There is a very small risk of febrile seizures that increases as infants get older, which is why the shot is recommended as early as possible.

Bike taxi ban has left commuters and riders in the lurch

High Court order sparks outcry over last-mile gaps, fare hikes, and job losses

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With the Karnataka High Court ordering a ban on bike taxi services within six weeks, daily commuters in Bengaluru are grappling with concerns over last-mile connectivity—especially metro users who heavily rely on these services due to a lack of feeder buses and the unreliability of auto-rickshaws. Many complain that autos either don't respond to calls or demand exorbitant fares without using meters. In contrast, bike taxis offer a faster, affordable solution through traffic congestion. Their absence, say commuters, will especially burden the poor and middle class.

The city has over one lakh full-time and part-time bike taxi riders, whose livelihoods are now under threat. Several bike taxi companies are preparing to approach the Supreme Court to seek a stay on the High Court's order.

Commuters fear that the ban will trigger fare hikes in other modes of transport. Auto unions have already demanded a fare revision from ₹30 to ₹40 for the first 2 km, and from ₹15 to ₹20 per additional km citing rising operational costs. The recent increase in the state sales tax from 18.4% to 21.17%, along with a ₹2 hike in diesel prices, is also expected to push travel costs higher.

Protesters highlight how the ban on bike taxis will take away an affordable, quick, and hassle-free commuting option for thousands

In 2021, Karnataka became the first state to launch an electric bike taxi policy, but the government rolled it back in March 2024 following pressure from auto unions. Since then, the bike taxi sector has faced legal uncertainty, resistance from auto associations, and questions about safety particularly for women passengers. Despite these challenges, the High Court has given the state government three months to frame appropriate regulations for bike taxi operations.

Many users, including working professionals and students, have expressed dismay. "I've been using bike taxis for a year now. Autos never come when called and always overcharge. Bike taxis are hassle-free," said tech employee Sinchana Nagaraj. Lokesh, a marketing executive who drives for Rapido part-time, added, "I earn ₹300–₹500 daily after work. Banning bike taxis will hit our income hard."

Make your property dreams come true this Akshaya Tritiya

Akshaya Tritiya, a highly auspicious day, is considered one of the best times for buying property. Celebrated by millions across India, this festival is known for its significance in bringing prosperity, success, and wealth into people's lives. For property buyers, this day presents a unique blend of tradition, sentiment, and practical financial benefits, making it an ideal occasion for making one of the most significant investments of their life.

Akshaya Tritiya falls on April 30 marks a day of new beginnings. The word "Akshaya" means "never diminishing" or "infinite," symbolising prosperity that is bound to grow.

Many believe that any investment made on this day is blessed and will bring long-term benefits, making it an ideal time for purchasing real estate. The auspicious timing of Akshaya Tritiya has seen a surge in property sales year after year. Many buyers prefer to make property transactions during this period, as they believe it invites good fortune.

Moreover, developers often roll out attractive offers, special discounts, and exclusive schemes during this time to align with the positive sentiment surrounding the festival. This results in a win-win situation for both buyers and developers, with increased interest and offers designed to sweeten the deal.

"We always see a spike in demand during Akshaya Tritiya, and this year we are offering exclusive discounts and flexible payment plans to make the buying process smoother for our customers," said Ravi Sharma, a real estate developer based in Bengaluru.

"In addition to the festive discounts, we also provide attractive home loan offers in collaboration with leading banks, making property ownership even more accessible."

Apart from the tangible offers, buying property during Akshaya Tritiya is also seen as a wise financial decision. The festival is associated with the belief that investments made on this day are destined to grow exponentially.

Property is a long-term investment, and purchasing a home or land on Akshaya Tritiya is seen as a symbol of securing a prosperous future. For investors, this is also a strategic time to purchase properties in areas that are set to experience growth due to infrastructure development or urbanisation.

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Dr Kasturirangan: A legacy that left indelible mark

Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, who passed away on Friday morning, was a distinguished Indian space scientist and visionary leader who significantly advanced India's space and education sectors.

He made invaluable contributions to both the space and education sectors of the country.

Dr. Kasturirangan passed away on Friday at the age of 84 in Bengaluru. His visionary leadership in space exploration and education reform has left an indelible mark on India's scientific and academic landscapes.

Born on October 24, 1940, in Ernakulam, Kerala, Dr. Kasturirangan pursued his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in physics at the University of Mumbai. He later obtained his doctoral degree in experimental high-energy astronomy from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Kasturirangan's exemplary work earned him numerous accolades and he was awarded the Padma Shri (1982), Padma Bhushan (1992), and Padma Vibhushan (2000) by the Government of India.

He served as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 1994 to 2003. During his tenure, he oversaw several pivotal developments. **IANS**

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I Arshiya Banu Y R/O No328/9 13th Cross Khasim Khan Street Near Sri Sai Hospital HBR Layout 5th Block Nagawara Main Road Arabic College Post Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Arshiya Banu

I Gaurav Jit Saini S/O, Gurdev Saini R/o 3164, Tower 3, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Gunjur, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560087 have changed my name to Gaurav Jit Singh.

I Aditya Ganesh S/O, Ganesh Gopalakrishnan R/o F401, R&s Koncept Lakeview Apartments, St Anns Church Road, Thanisandra 560077 have changed my name to Aditya Ganesh Bharadwaj.

I Priyanka Belsare D/O, Ashokrao Dyaneshwar Belsare R/o A2001 Sattva Gold Summit, Hennur-bagalur Road Kothanur Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Priyanka Ashokrao Belsare.

I, SARIKA ABHIJITH SHET, Residing at No 500, Vasantha Vallabha Golden Nest, Flat No 103, 24th A Cross, Karesandra, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070, Have changed my name to SARIKA D SHET, vide affidavit dated 24/04/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Smita Subhash Patil R/O T2A-805, Candeur Carlisle, B Narayanapura, Mahadevpura, Bangalore-560048, have changed my name to Smita Patil

I, Chandrakala Reddemma Rajkumar w/o Rajkumar Gopinath R/o Kalaraj 3DC No.137, 3rd cross, East of Ngef, Kasturinagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Sangeetham Chandrakala Affidavit Dt.25/04/2025 notary Harisha G, Notary

I, VIJAY M S/o. Mahadeva, residing at Kasaba Hobli, T Narasipura Taluk, Muttatti, Mysuru-571110, declaring that VIJAY M alias VEERABHADRA M alias VIJAY, all names are one and belongs to me only, I will use VIJAY M for all future correspondences, vide affidavit dated 22.04.2025, sworn before notary H.G Padmanabha Rao, Bangalore.

I, Jagmohan Sharma S/o Kewal Krishan Sharma, R/at G-010, Sanjeevini Sanctuary, Whitefield road, Nellurahalli, Bangalore-560066 have changed my name to JAGGMOHAN SHARMA, vide affidavit dt: 26.04.2025 before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

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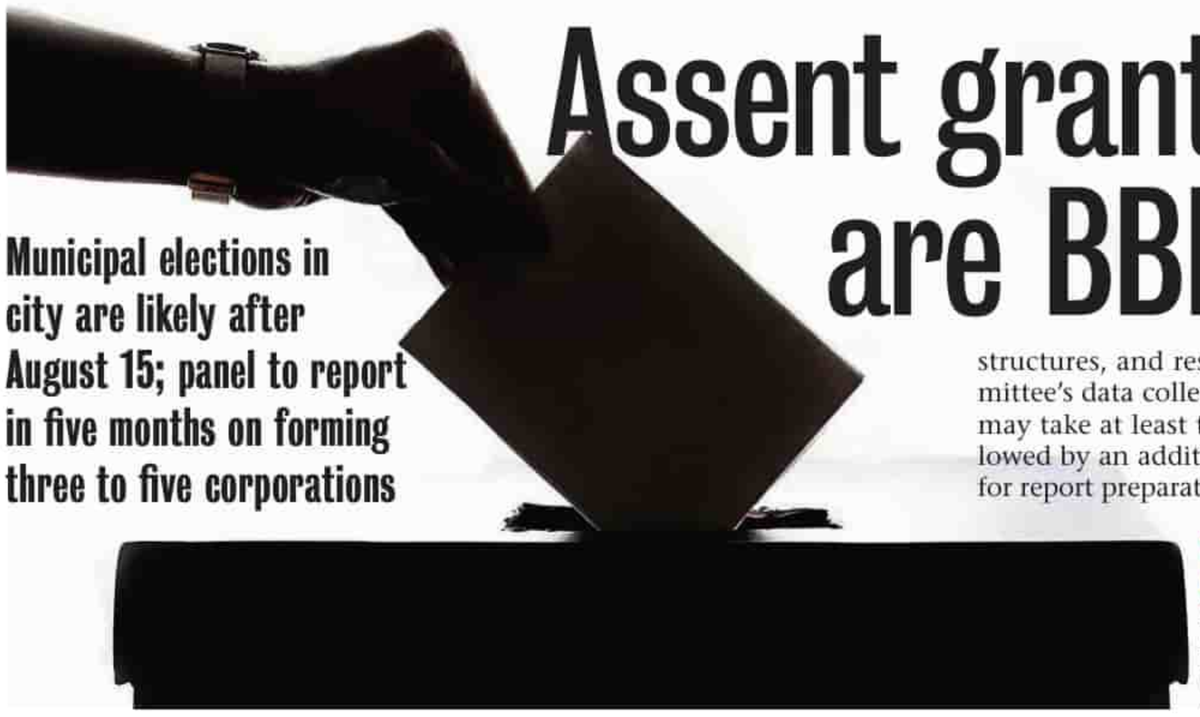

Assent granted, but when are BBMP elections?

Municipal elections in city are likely after August 15; panel to report in five months on forming three to five corporations

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot giving his assent to the creation of Greater Bengaluru, the stage is set for restructuring the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The move will pave the way for forming new municipal corporations. However, experts caution that this transformation, delayed due to the absence of elected BBMP representatives for several years, could take several months, if not longer, to fully implement.

Municipal elections scheduled

In a recent affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the Karnataka government announced that municipal elections in Bengaluru would be conducted only after August 15, 2025. According to the affidavit filed by Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, SR Umashankar, all related processes, including ward reservations, will be completed before then. The declaration was made during a hearing on a petition by Shivaraju regarding the long-pending BBMP elections.

Expert committee

Although the Act permits up to nine new corporations, sources say the government is initially considering the creation of three to five. An expert committee will gather data from various departments on existing boundaries, finances, administrative structures, and resources. The committee's data collection and analysis may take at least three months, followed by an additional two months for report preparation, if required.

Ward delimitation

Sources said that new wards will be delineated based on the 2011 Census, using population data as a key criterion. Once wards are finalised, the reservation process will follow. A retired judge or senior bureaucrat is expected to lead the delimitation and reservation commission. Only after these steps will elections for the new corporations become feasible.

Greater Bengaluru expands

Under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, the government will declare the formal extent of the Greater Bengaluru region, which will encompass parts of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Ramanagara districts. Once notified, all existing urban and rural administrative bodies—BBMP, City Municipal Councils (CMCs), and Gram Panchayats—within this jurisdiction will be dissolved.

Administrative framework

The new governance model will consist of three tiers: the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Municipal Corporations, and Wards. The GBA must be established within 120 days of the Act's enforcement, with provisions for up to seven Municipal Corporations, each having a maximum of 150 wards, all bearing the prefix 'Bengaluru'. The GBA will oversee the general service rules, recruitment, and appointments for Group 'A' and 'B' officers, while Municipal Corporation Commissioners will manage appointments for Group 'C' and 'D' staff, but cannot enforce disciplinary action.

Key leadership roles

The GBA will be chaired by the Chief Minister, with the Bengaluru Development Minister as Vice Chairperson. It will include ministers from Home, Urban Development, Transport, and Energy, along with MLAs from Greater Bengaluru, Mayors, Chief Commissioners, and heads of key civic agencies like BDA, BWSSB, BMTC, BMRCL, BESCOM, City Police, BMLTA, and Fire Services.

Timeline of BBMP restructuring

- **Sept 22, 2014:** Expert committee formed.
- **June 12, 2023:** Expert committee reconstituted for BBMP restructuring report.
- **July 18, 2023:** Committee restructured and renamed as the BBMP Reform Committee .
- **July 8, 2024:** BBMP Reform Committee submits draft of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill-2024 to the government.
- **July 22, 2024:** Cabinet approves three-tier governance structure.
- **July 23, 2024:** Bill tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
- **July 25, 2024:** Joint Select Committee formed to review the bill.
- **Aug 22, 2024:** Joint Select Committee led by MLA Rizwan Arshad constituted.
- **Feb 21, 2025:** Committee submits review report to the Speaker.
- **March 5, 2025:** Bill reintroduced in Assembly with recommendations.
- **March 10, 2025:** Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly.
- **March 12, 2025:** Bill approved by the Legislative Council with amendments.

Courts must justify complaints, says HC

The Karnataka High Court has established that courts must exercise judicial discretion and provide reasoned conclusions before initiating complaints under section 379 BNSS for offences affecting judicial administration, such as false evidence or document fabrication.

The matter arose when a petitioner contested a sessions court's January 23 directive to register a separate petition regarding alleged false evidence by the defendant-petitioner. This followed after the Respondent Plaintiff submitted an application under section 379 with section 215 BNSS, alleging perjury through a false affidavit.

Courts must record findings before filing complaints under BNSS 379

Justice Hemant Chandan Gaudar, whilst allowing K Ganesh Babu's petition, noted that the Trial Court ordered registration of a criminal miscellaneous petition without establishing whether such inquiry served justice's interests, as required under the Bhati in Agrik Suraksha Singh 2023.

Section 379 of BNSS, corresponding to section 340 of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973, requires courts to form a judicial opinion and provide reasons before initiating complaints about justice administration offences. The provision necessitates two elements: determining if an inquiry serves justice and recording this finding before complaint registration.

The legislation specifies that courts must assess whether an inquiry is properly warranted regarding offences under subsection 1 of section 215, particularly concerning documents presented as evidence. Section 215 addresses prosecutions involving public servant authority, contempt and evidence-related offences.

The court concluded that without proper findings or opinions, the Trial Court's directive for registering a C Miscellaneous Petition exceeded section 380's appealable orders. Where BNSS provides no statutory remedies, aggrieved parties must seek the court's inherent powers. The High Court overturned the Trial Court's order, instructing reconsideration of the application within one week, strictly adhering to legal requirements.

—BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Engineer cleared of disciplinary action

The Karnataka High Court has criticised both the State government and the Lokayukta for initiating disciplinary action against an engineer who could not act against an illegal building in Hombegowda ward, noting that a tribunal's status quo order prevented any action against the structure.

The court stated: "An officer of the State is required to abide by the orders of courts and tribunals. If there is an order of such a court and tribunal restraining the officer from performing any particular action, the non-performance thereof cannot be said to be a dereliction of duty."

Judicial body cancels probe, citing tribunal's status quo order on building

Justice Suraj Govidaraj issued the order nullifying the disciplinary proceedings against BS Sandeep, who served as an Assistant Executive Engineer in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike during 2013.

In August 2013, the BBMP issued preliminary and final notifications regarding an illegally constructed building, but demolition was halted when the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal in November 2013 ordered maintenance of the status quo on the building's condition.

The Lokayukta independently investigated the construction of various properties, including this particular case, and concluded that BBMP's jurisdictional officers and engineers had failed to address this illegal construction.

The government initiated a departmental enquiry against the officers, including the petitioner, based on the Lokayukta's preliminary report, and assigned the investigation to the Lokayukta in 2016.

The court noted that the tribunal's status quo order remained active when the Lokayukta submitted its preliminary report, when the government began the departmental enquiry in March 2016, and when the Lokayukta issued the chargesheet to the petitioner in July 2016.

The court concluded that disciplinary proceedings were inappropriate and unjustified since the tribunal's order restricted the petitioner and the BBMP from taking action.

—BMB

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When algorithms take the field

Inside sports' robo-umping experiment

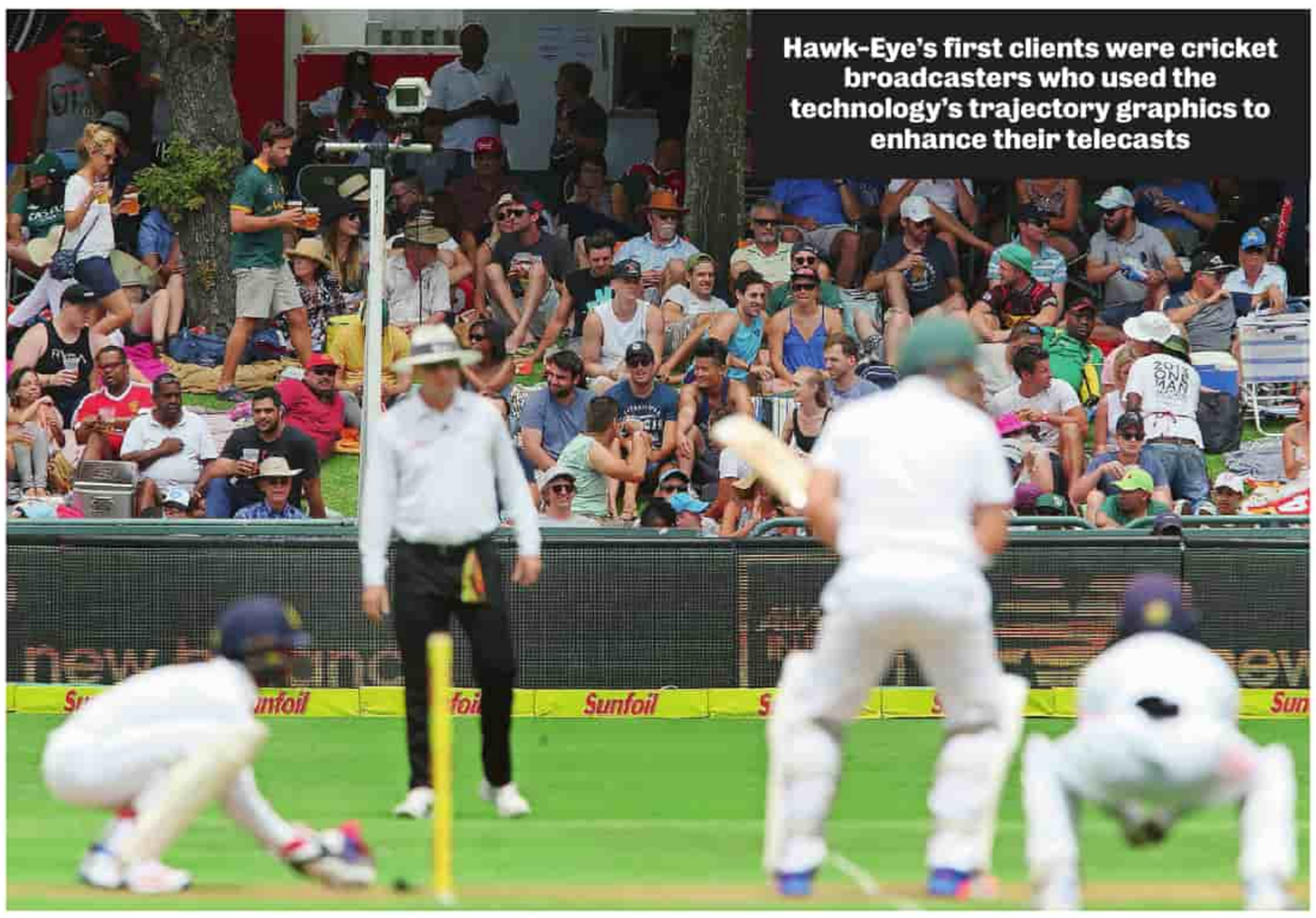
Baseball fans who tuned into spring training games may have noticed another new wrinkle in a sport that's experienced a host of changes in recent years.

Batters, pitchers and catchers were able to challenge a home plate umpire's ball or strike call. Powered by Hawk-Eye ball-tracking technology, the automated ball-strike system replays the pitch trajectory to determine whether the umpire's call was correct.

The impact on game length was minimal – a challenge took, on average, 13.8 seconds – and most players and managers welcomed the opportunity to question a ball or a strike call. Just over half of challenges led to overturned calls.

Future Hall of Famer Max Scherzer was among the skeptics, however. "We're humans," the Toronto Blue Jays hurler said after a spring training game in which he challenged two calls and lost both to the robo umps. "Can we just be judged by humans?"

Technological advances that lead to fairer, more accurate calls are often seen as triumphs. But as co-editors of the recently published volume "Inventing for Sports," which includes case studies of over 20 sports inventions, we find that new technology doesn't mean perfect precision – nor does it necessarily lead to better competition from the fan perspective.



Hawk-Eye's first clients were cricket broadcasters who used the technology's trajectory graphics to enhance their telecasts

Cue the cameras

While playing in a cricket match in the 1990s, British computer scientist Paul Hawkins fumed over a bad call. He decided to make sure the same mistake wouldn't happen again. Drawing on his doctoral training in artificial intelligence, he designed an array of high-speed cameras to capture a ball's flight path and velocity, and a software algorithm that used the data to predict the ball's likely future path.

"With slow-motion instant replays, determining a catch or a player's intention for a personal foul can actually be distorted by low-speed replay, since humans aren't adept at adjusting to shifting replay speeds

He founded Hawk-Eye Innovations Ltd. in 2001, and his first clients were cricket broadcasters who used the technology's trajectory graphics to enhance their telecasts. By 2006, professional tennis leagues began deploying Hawk-Eye to help officials adjudicate line calls. Cricket leagues followed in 2009, incorporating it to help umpires make what are known as "leg before wicket" calls, among others. And professional soccer leagues started using the technology in 2012 to determine whether balls cross the goal line.

Reaction to Hawk-Eye has been mixed. In tennis, players, fans and broadcasters have generally embraced the technology. During a challenge, spectators often clap rhythmically in anticipation as the Hawk-Eye official cues up the replayed trajectory.

But Hawk-Eye isn't perfect. In 2020 and 2022, the firm publicly apologised to fans of professional soccer clubs after its goal-line technology made errant calls after players congregated in the goal box and obstructed key camera sight lines.

Perfection isn't possible

Critics have also raised more fundamental concerns.

In their 2016 book "Bad Call," researchers Harry Collins, Robert Evans and Christopher Higgins reminded readers that Hawk-Eye is not a replay of the ball's actual position; rather, it produces a prediction of a trajectory, based on the ball's prior velocity, rotation and position. The authors lament that Hawk-Eye and what they term "decision aids" have undermined the authority of referees and umpires, which they consider bad for the games.

Ultimately, there are no purely objective standards for fairness and accuracy in technological officiating. They are always negotiated. Even the most precise officiating innovations require human consensus to define and validate their role. Technologies like photo-finish cameras, instant replay and ball-tracking systems have improved the precision of officiating, but their deployment is shaped – and often limited – by human judgment and institutional decisions. For example, today's best race timing systems are accurate to 0.0001 seconds, yet Olympic sports such as swimming, track and field, and alpine skiing report results in increments of only 0.01 seconds. This can lead to situations – such as Dominique Gisin and Tina Maze's gold medal tie in the women's downhill ski race at the 2014 Sochi Olympics – in which the timing officials admitted that their equipment could have revealed the actual winner. But they were forced to report a dead heat under the rules of the ski federation.

Fans have the final say

Finding a balance between machine precision and the human element of baseball is crucial.

Though often unacknowledged in negotiations between leagues and athletes, fan enthusiasm is a key component of whether to adopt new technology.

For example, innovative "full-body" swimsuits contributed to a wave of record-breaking finishes in the sport between 2000 and 2009. But uneven access to the newest gear raised the specter of what some called "technological doping." World Aquatics worried that as records fell simply due to equipment innovations, spectators would stop watching and broadcast and sponsorship revenue would dry up.

The swimming federation ended up banning full-body swimsuits. Of course, algorithmic officiating differs from technologies that enhance performance and speed. But it runs a similar risk of turning off fans.

(Arthur Daemmrich, Arizona State University and Eric S Hintz, Smithsonian Institution, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

INDIA AHEAD IN AI PATENTS

India continues to maintain its 5th position in the overall global patent filings and over 86,000 AI-related patents were filed between 2010 and 2025, accounting for more than 25 per cent of all technology patents in the country, a Nasscom report said on Friday.

The pace of innovation has accelerated dramatically, with the number of AI patents filed between 2021 and 2025 being seven times higher than those filed between 2010 and 2015.

Notably, 63 per cent of these AI patents originated in India, while 17 per cent were first filed in the United States. **IANS**

BOOST TO TESLA

The Trump administration is loosening rules to help US automakers like Elon Musk's Tesla develop self-driving cars so they can take on Chinese rivals. US companies developing self-driving cars will be allowed exemptions from certain federal safety rules for testing purposes, the Transportation Department said on Thursday.

The department also said it will streamline crash reporting requirements involving self-driving software that Musk has criticized as onerous and will move toward a single set of national rules for the technology to replace a patchwork of state regulations. "We're in a race with China to out-innovate, and the stakes couldn't be higher," said an official. **AP**

WAYMO FOR YOU?

Alphabet's Waymo self-driving taxis may be available for people to own in the future, CEO Sundar Pichai said on Thursday, just as electric vehicle maker Tesla gears up to roll out robotaxis this year in the United States.

Waymo that started as a small self-driving project in 2009 and spun out of Google seven years later, has expanded slowly but steadily in a tricky autonomous vehicle market that has seen casualties due to soaring investment, tight regulatory needs and tough tech hurdles. With more than 700 vehicles in its fleet - 300 of which operate in San Francisco - Waymo is the only U.S. firm that runs uncrewed robotaxis that collect fares. **Reuters**

HUE KNEW THIS?

Colours are objective, though the blue you see doesn't match what I see

Is your green my green? Probably not. What appears as pure green to me will likely look a bit yellowish or blueish to you. This is because visual systems vary from person to person. Moreover, an object's colour may appear differently against different backgrounds or under different lighting.

These facts might naturally lead you to think that colors are subjective. That, unlike features such as length and temperature, colors are not objective features. Either nothing has a true colour, or colours are relative to observers and their viewing conditions.

But perceptual variation has misled you. We are philosophers who study colours, objectivity and science, and we argue in our book "The Metaphysics of Colors" that colours are as objective as length and temperature.

Perceptual variation

There is a surprising amount of variation in how people perceive the world. If you offer a group of people a spectrum of colour chips ranging from chartreuse to purple and asked them to pick the unique green chip – the chip with no yellow or blue in it – their choices would vary considerably. Indeed, there wouldn't be a single chip that most observers would agree is unique green.

Generally, an object's background can result in dramatic changes in how you perceive its colours. If you place a grey object against a lighter background, it will appear darker than if you place it against a darker background. This variation in perception is perhaps most striking when viewing an object under different lighting, where a red apple could look green or blue.

Of course, that you experience something differently does not prove that what is experienced is not objective. Water that feels cold to one person may not feel cold to another. And although we do not know who is feeling the water "correctly", or whether that question even makes sense, we can know the temperature of the water and presume that this temperature is independent of your experience.

Similarly, that you can change the appearance of something's colour is not the same as changing its colour. You can make an apple look green or blue, but that is not evidence that the apple is not red.

For comparison, the Moon appears larger when it's on the horizon than when it appears near its zenith. But the size of the Moon has not changed, only its appearance. Hence, that the appearance of an object's colour or size varies is, by itself, no reason to think that its colour and size are not objective features of the object. In other words, the properties of an object are independent of how they appear to you.

That said, given that there is so much variation in how objects appear, how do you determine what colour something actually is? Is there a way to determine the colour of something despite the many different experiences you might have of it?

Matching colours

Perhaps determining the colour of something is to determine whether it is red or blue. But we suggest a different approach. Notice that squares that appear to be the same shade of pink against different backgrounds look different against the same background.

It's easy to assume that to prove colours are objective would require knowing which observers, lighting conditions and backgrounds are the best, or "normal." But determining the right observers and viewing conditions is not required for determining the very specific colour of an object, regardless of its name. And it is not required to determine whether two objects have the same colour.

To determine whether two objects have the same colour, an observer would need to view the objects side by side against the same background and under various lighting conditions. If you painted part of a room and find that you don't have enough paint, for instance, finding a match might be very tricky. A colour match requires that no observer under any lighting condition will see a difference between the new paint and the old.

That two people can determine whether two objects have the same color even if they don't agree on exactly what that color is – just as a pool of water can have a particular temperature without feeling the same to me and you – seems like compelling evidence to us that colors are objective features of our world.

Colours, science and indispensability

Everyday interactions with colours – such as matching paint samples, determining whether your shirt and pants clash, and even your ability to interpret works of art – are hard to explain if colours are not objective features of objects. But if you turn to science and look at the many ways that researchers think about colours, it becomes harder still.

For example, in the field of colour science, scientific laws are used to explain how objects and light affect perception and the colours of other objects. Such laws, for instance, predict what happens when you mix coloured pigments, when you view contrasting colours simultaneously or successively, and when you look at colored objects in various lighting conditions.

The philosophers Hilary Putnam and Willard van Orman Quine made famous what is known as the indispensability argument. The basic idea is that if something is indispensable to science, then it must be real and objective – otherwise, science wouldn't work as well as it does.

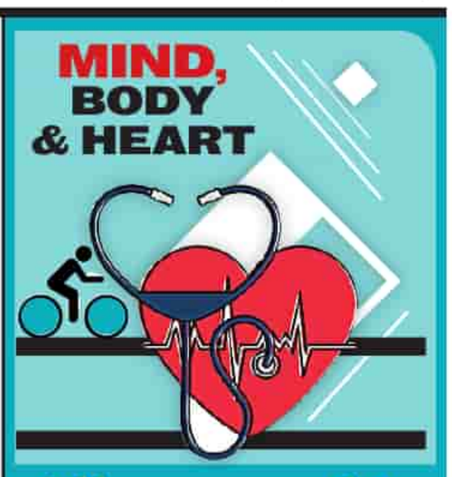
For example, you may wonder whether unobservable entities such as electrons and electromagnetic fields really exist. But, so the argument goes, the best scientific explanations assume the existence of such entities and so they must exist. Similarly, because mathematics is indispensable to contemporary science, some philosophers argue that this means mathematical objects are objective and exist independently of a person's mind.

Likewise, we suggest that colour plays an indispensable role in evolutionary biology. For example, researchers have argued that aposematism – the use of colours to signal a warning for predators – also benefits an animal's ability to gather resources. Here, an animal's colouration works directly to expand its food-gathering niche insofar as it informs potential predators that the animal is poisonous or venomous.

In fact, animals can exploit the fact that the same colour pattern can be perceived differently by different perceivers. For instance, some damselfish have ultraviolet face patterns that help them be recognised by other members of their species and communicate with potential mates while remaining largely hidden to predators unable to perceive ultraviolet colors.

In sum, our ability to determine whether objects are coloured the same or differently and the indispensable roles they play in science suggest that colours are as real and objective as length and temperature.

(Elay Shech and Michael Watkins, Auburn University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Age 36

Crucial age

A study has suggested that age 36 is when the ill-effects of having unhealthy habits as a young adult -- smoking, drinking and physical inactivity -- start becoming apparent.

Researchers from the University of Jyvaskyla tracked about 370 residents of the Finnish city for over 30 years. Data was collected via surveys and medical tests at ages 27, 36, 42, 50 and 61.

3 bad habits

Three bad habits -- smoking, heavy drinking and a lack of exercise -- can lead to declines in health in people as young as 36, according to findings published in the journal Annals of Medicine.

Mid-life vs in late 30s

The team said that unhealthy behaviours in mid-life -- 40s and 50s -- are known to increase chances of developing health disorders in old age. However, their analysis showed that the ill-effects of unhealthy behaviours remained similar through the ages 36 to 61, suggesting that the link exists already at age 36 and not only in the later phases of mid-life.

Crucially, the ill-effects were apparent by the time the participants were in their mid-30s, the researchers said.

Tackle bad behaviour early on

"Our findings highlight the importance of tackling risky health behaviours, such as smoking, heavy drinking and physical inactivity, as early as possible to prevent the damage they do to from building up over the years, culminating in poor mental and physical health later in later life," lead author Tiia Kekalainen, a health scientist at the University of Jyvaskyla's Gerontology Research Center.

A lack of exercise was particularly linked to a poor physical health, and smoking to a poor mental health.

A heavy consumption of alcohol was, however, associated with declines in both mental and physical health.

—PTI

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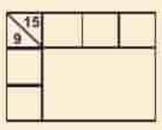
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

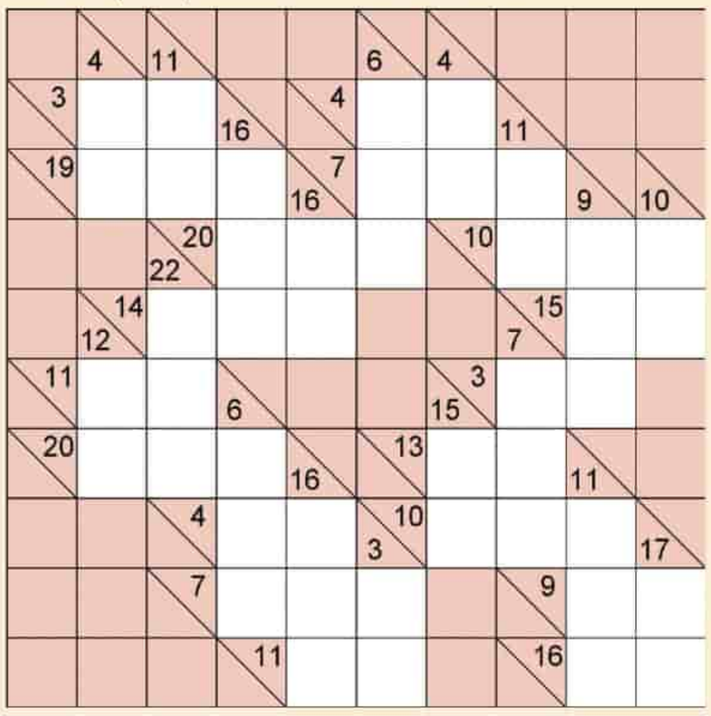
A solid ball of radius 5 cm is fixed in a cylinder of height of 10 cm, then remaining space in the cylinder is _____ cm^3.

Kakuro

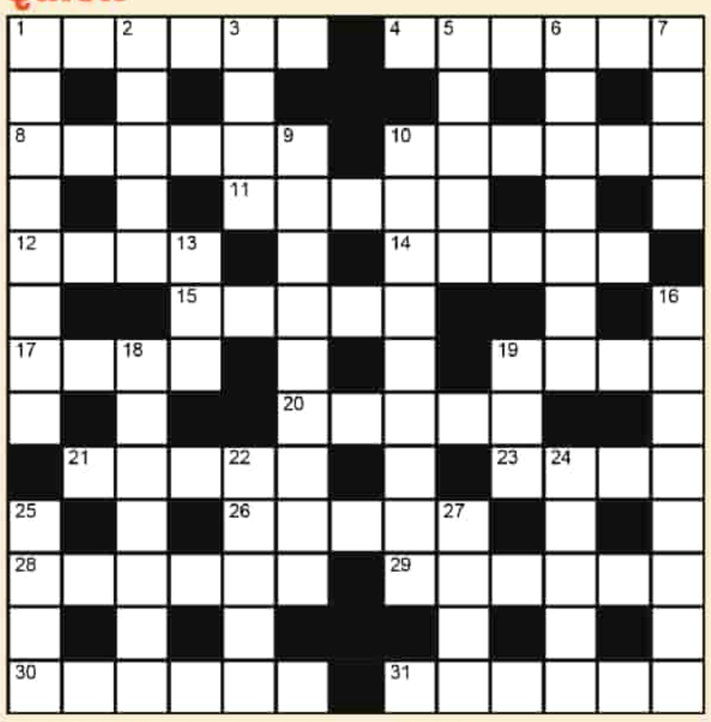
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Inflict retribution (6)
4 Slight wave (6)
8 Japanese dictator (6)
10 Wanderers (6)
11 Element of the carbon family (5)
12 Wander about aimlessly (4)
14 Willow twig (5)
15 Music director ___ Chaudhary (5)
17 Those ungentlemanly chaps? (4)
19 Japanese mountain (4)
20 Temporary ceasefire (5)
21 Thong on which a dog may be held (5)
23 Send forth (4)
26 Hindu social class (5)
28 Hand-gun (6)
29 Economic improvement (6)
30 Off course (6)
31 Incidents (6)

DOWN

1 Not material (8)
2 Deadly African virus (5)
3 Food (informal) (4)
5 Desktop symbols (5)
6 Tract of tableland (7)
7 The ____: Orient (4)
9 Not deadly (3-6)
10 Rice noodle delicacy of Karnataka (4,5)
13 Short for 'manuscripts' (3)
16 Stretches out or causes to grow bigger because of pressure inside (8)
18 Sideboard; one who assists an actor to put on a costume (7)
19 Charge (3)
22 To jeer at (5)
24 Grieve for or over (5)
25 Hebrew measure–"pa he" anagram ? (4)
27 Large scale (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

FSM TSLN XB LF RU SBUDSK, HFL GVVFMTXHP LF FSM TUBXMUB RSL GVVFMTXHP LF FSM CFIUMB.

Linemaro

Where is the 'like' button for that smile?

Mindchow

Great men are seldom over-scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire

Joke of the day

My mother was the worst cook ever; in school, when we traded lunches, I had to throw in an article of clothing

Loop

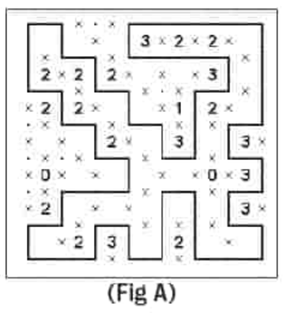
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

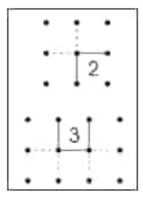
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

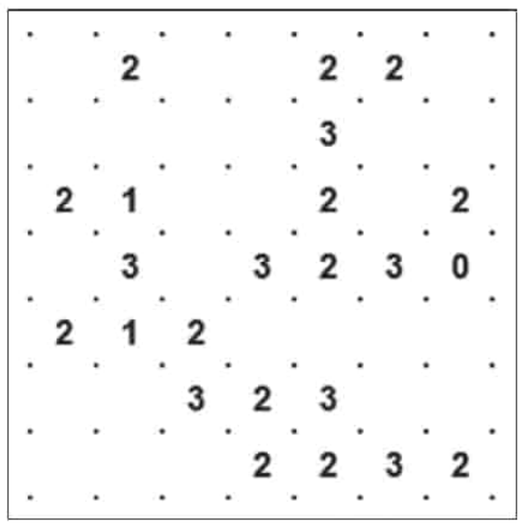
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



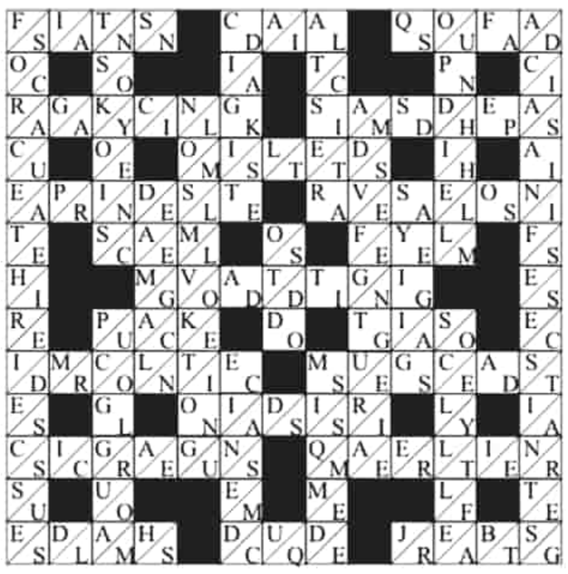
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				N

ACROSS

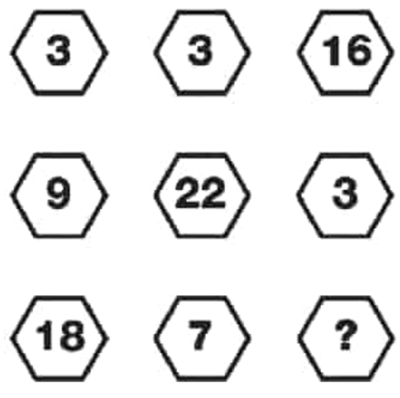
1 Bream; 6 Iller; 7 Radio; 8 A obit; 9 Amend

DOWN

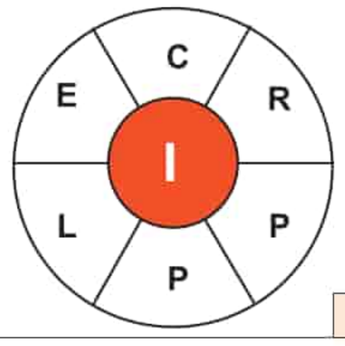
1 Arab a; 2 Rim ID; 3 Lo mob; 4 It lee; 5 Andre

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6					7	2		8
	4			3	1			
							3	6
3	1		8			4		
		4				8		
		7			6		5	2
4	5							
			3	5			2	
2		3	4					9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

4 4 5 9

Medium = 35

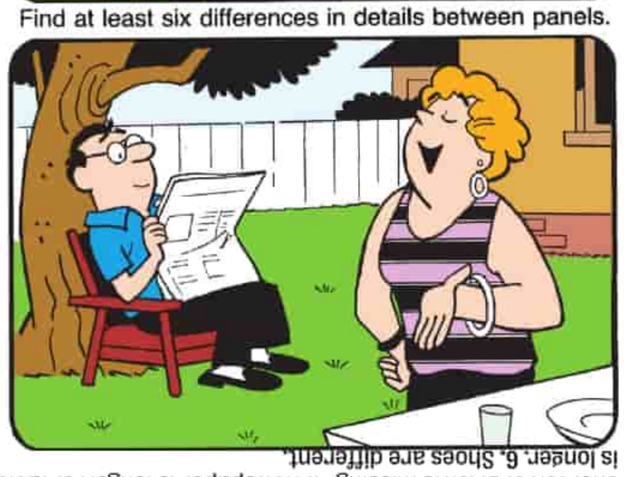
4 5 6 9

Hard = 25

2 4 7 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



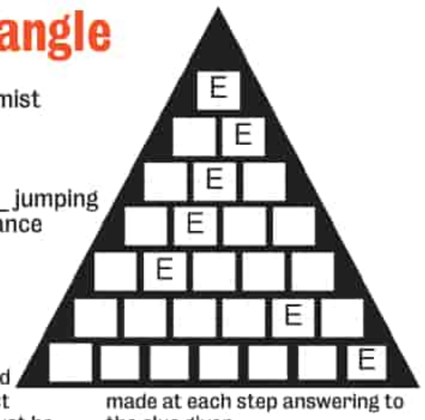
Differences: 1. Chair is missing. 2. Back of man's chair is shorter. 3. Brick is missing. 4. Newspaper is longer. 5. Table is longer. 6. Shoes are different.

Riddler

Can you decipher the title of these two well-known Alfred Hitchcock movies?
1. To Apprehend a Criminal
2. The Male Who Perceived Everything
3. Dizziness with a Sensation of Motion

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Neon for the chemist
3 Not pas. or neut.
4 Knee
5 Commenced
6 Daredevil sport: _ jumping
7 Bolero rhythm dance



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HEY, SURLI, HOW DO I GET A WOMAN TO RUN INTO MY ARMS?
OK, HERE'S WHAT I FOUND...
RACE HER TO YOUR GUN SAFE
©2025 creators.com 1/18
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

HEART, WHERE'S YOUR BUDDY?
CHARLOTTE'S IN THE BATHROOM. ALL THIS WATER IN THE AQUARIUM JUST MAKES YOU WANNA PEE, DOESN'T IT?
YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 AARGENTO MCNEIL
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Crankshaft

THE DOCTOR SAID MY BACK PAIN WAS DUE TO STRESS... AND NOW THAT I KNOW THAT, IT'S NOT HURTING ANYMORE!
BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I START TO STRESS OVER SOMETHING AGAIN?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
1-18

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel anxious or impatient today, prompting a deeper interest in spirituality or the occult in search of peace. Trusting your intuition can offer valuable guidance. It's a great day to engage in research or explore subjects that captivate your mind.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
With the Moon favoring your sign, both personal and professional matters are moving ahead. Investments may start yielding returns. Emotional support from family and friends will be comforting. Your hard work is paying off—success is within reach.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Balance returns today, and your children's health improves. It's a good time to plan for their future. You'll feel committed to your work, and networking may open new job opportunities. Be alert to hidden rivals—but divine support is on your side.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your mother's health improves, and your efforts at work may finally get recognized. Social status could rise, but mental fatigue from overworking is possible. Prioritize family time to avoid stress-induced distance from loved ones.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Work satisfaction is likely today. A short business trip or spiritual visit could refresh your mind. Guidance from a mentor or spiritual guide may offer clarity in your personal or career goals, bringing renewed purpose.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A low mood might cloud your judgment—remain calm and avoid impulsive decisions. If you're traveling to recover money, proceed with caution. Risky ventures should be avoided. Students are advised to focus on in-depth study for better outcomes.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Emotional well-being is boosted by harmony at home. A meeting with someone influential could enhance your career. Strong performance at work may bring recognition or promotion. Long-pending property disputes could move toward resolution.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your focus shifts to your children—whether it's planning their future or investing in their development. Business partnerships may introduce innovation and financial support. Consider pursuing higher studies to further your professional path.

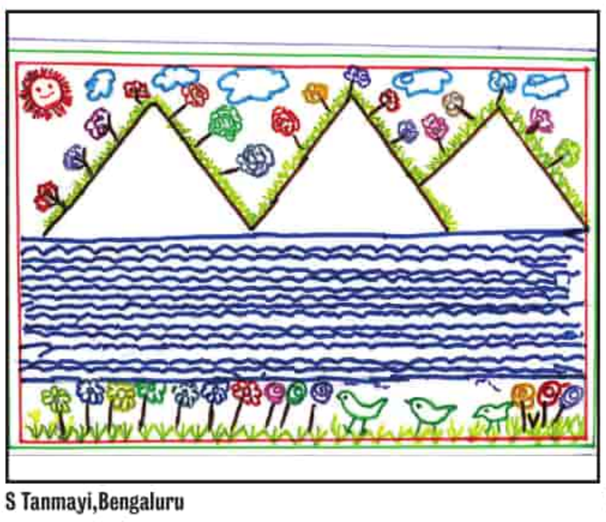
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A reflective mood leads to deep self-analysis, boosting confidence and goal clarity. Your creative energy is high—arts, media, or glamor may draw your attention. By day's end, you'll feel fulfilled, and rivals will no longer seem threatening.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Helping others brings inner peace and respect. Creative, innovative ideas are flowing—don't hesitate to apply them, especially at work. Romance is favored today, and an enjoyable outing or mini adventure with your partner is likely.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Home responsibilities may dominate your day. You might spend on decorative items—just be cautious of overdoing it, as clutter can attract negative energy. Be mindful of your tone in conversations to avoid family misunderstandings.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Spiritual energy uplifts you today. Your mindset is positive, and a visit to a sacred place may be planned. Interest in the occult or mysticism could deepen. You'll appear calm and centered—just be selective with whom you share your insights.

KIDZONE



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Remaining space in the cylinder
= π × 5^2×10 - 4/3 × π × 5^3
= 25π [10 - 4/3 ×5]
= 25π[10/3]
= 250π/3 cm^3

QUOTE UNCODE
Our duty is to be useful, not according to our desires but according to our powers.

RIDDLER
1. To Catch a Thief,
2. The Man Who Knew Too Much &
3. Vertigo

FAST FIVE

A	M	B	E	R
R	I	L	L	E
A	R	O	I	D
B	I	O	T	A
A	D	M	E	N

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
1. In every row of the diagram, if you subtract the odd numbers from the even number, you always get 10.

BULL'S EYE
clip, CLIPPER, CRIPPLE, epic, lice, peril, pler, pile, pipe, piper, price, relic, rice, rile, ripe, ripple

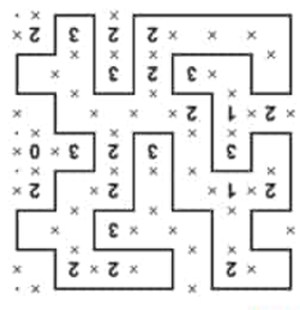
SUDOKU

6	3	1	5	9	7	2	4	8
8	4	2	6	3	1	9	7	5
7	9	5	2	8	4	1	3	6
3	1	6	8	2	5	4	9	7
5	2	4	9	7	3	8	6	1
9	8	7	1	4	6	3	5	2
4	5	9	7	1	2	6	8	3
1	6	8	3	5	9	7	2	4
2	7	3	4	6	8	5	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Ne, Neg, Genu, Begun, Bungee, Beguine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 - 5 - 4 + 9 = 4
Medium
9 x 5 - 4 - 6 = 35
Hard
7 x 2 + 4 + 7 = 25

LOOP



KAKURO

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First attempt is a good attempt

FIREFLY
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Vamshi Krishna
- **ACTORS** Vamshi Krishna, Rachana Inder, Dr Shivarajkumar Sudharani, Achyuth Kumar, Sheetal Shetty
- **Duration** 133 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Debutant director Vamshi Krishna deserves a pat on the back for selecting a subject that all types of audiences can connect with, because all of us are under one or the other pressure in life. All of us might have experienced the trauma and ill-treatment from our relatives and so-called well-wishers when we badly needed their help and moral or financial support. Vamshi Krishna, apart from handling the megaphone, has played the lead in the movie. Though Firefly is his maiden movie as a director and a hero, he has tried his best.

The movie begins with Padma (Sudharani) and Murthy (Achyuth Kumar) waiting at Mysore airport to receive their son Vicky (Vamshi Krishna), who is returning home after four years. While driving home, Padma and Murthy are engaged in a discussion, while Vicky is relaxing in the backseat of the car. The car meets with an accident and Vicky loses his parents. He is injured too and is in a hospital. His uncle takes him to his house after he gets discharged from the hospital. He suffers from insomnia. He decides to leave his uncle's home. You have to watch the movie to know what has happened to him.

As far as performances of the actors are concerned, Vamshi Krishna is good in delivering dialogues and gestures but has to improve his acting skills if he wants to establish himself as an actor. Achyuth Kumar and Sudharani have nothing to do except quarrel with each other. Chitkala Biradar provides good support. Rachana Inder has a brief role and that too in the post-intermission session. Dr Shivarajkumar, who plays a pizza delivery boy, looks young and energetic.

Charan Raj has scored lilting music and songs are melodious. Abhilash Kalathi has done an excellent job behind the camera.

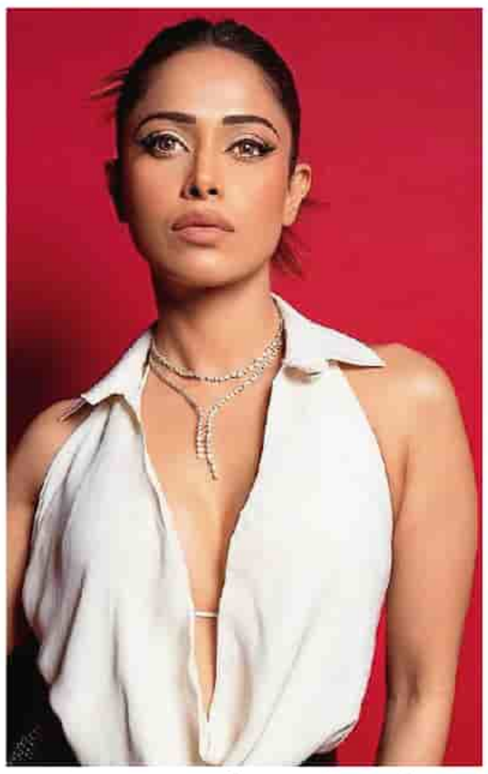
Had the director focused on keeping the screenplay crisp, the movie would have been a good entertainer.

All in all, it is worth a watch for all audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Alone in a glitzy world

Nushrratt opens up about feelings of loneliness that comes with fame



Nushrratt Bharuccha recently offered a raw and emotional insight into the often-glamourised yet isolating world of showbiz. In a recent interview, the actress shed light on the emotional toll that comes with being in the spotlight.

Though she has found success on the big screen, Nushrratt didn't shy away from acknowledging how isolating the journey has been. In a conversation with Bollywood Bubble, she shared her thoughts on how rare genuine friendships are in the industry, and how building her bond with fellow actress Ishita Raj took time.

"You've asked me this question at a very, very wrong time in my life. So, it's not okay, and it's terribly lonely," she stated.

She also shared an incident where she received an award, but had no one to celebrate with—something that made her forget what the award was even for. "Humans spend their entire life running after awards and accolades. And what do I remember? That I was sitting with the award in the car, and I was alone. I said to myself, 'Whom do I tell, yaar? I've won an award. Who shall I celebrated with, share my job with?' It's time only."

Nushrratt questioned why society celebrates stoicism but discourages emotional vulnerability. She spoke about the pressure to appear strong and unaffected, even when one isn't okay, and raised valid concerns about how emotional honesty is often misunderstood or even frowned upon.
Discussing the price one pays for chasing ambition, Nushrratt confessed that she no longer wants to climb any higher if it means losing the essence of human connection.

—ETimes

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